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April 30, 2003

CEDARVILLE, RIO GRANDE SET NAIA RECORD FOR LONGEST SOFTBALL GAME

CEDARVILLE, Ohio - Cedarville and Rio Grande set an NAIA national record on Tuesday for the longest women's softball game ever played. They squared off for 18 innings in which the host Redwomen prevailed, 3-2, in the first game of an American Midwest Conference South Division doubleheader.

The three-and-a-half hour marathon easily exceeded the previous record of 14 innings set on May 18, 1994 between William Woods (Mo.) and Belmont (Tenn.).

There was no forewarning about what was to come when Cedarville took a 2-0 lead into the bottom of the 7th inning. Rio's Lauren McQuirt delivered a two-out, two-run single to tie the game and the extra innings continued for 11 more frames. The Redwomen, 20-11 overall, plated the winning run in the bottom of the 18th on three Lady Jacket errors.

Rio Grande pitcher Andrea Lotycz set another NAIA record by logging all 18 innings on the mound with seven strikeouts. Cedarville ace Natalie Fox, who earlier this season lost a 1-0 contest in 13 innings, hurled 17 2/3 innings with 14 strikeouts.

Cedarville, 14-18, prevailed in the second game, 3-0, which took just 75 minutes to play.

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